THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) For setting up an export-oriented gold jewellery manufacturing complex, specific proposal is required to be received from a sponsoring agency including a State Government. No specific proposal to this effect with a specific location for such a complex has been received for Ahmedabad, in absence of which no such proposal for an export-oriented gold jewellery centre for Ahmedabad could be considered.

Carpet Service Centre

2314. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:
SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many Carpet Service Centres have been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh and how many are functioning;

(b) how many Regional Carpet Stores are functioning either under Service Centres or otherwise;

(c) whether the annual stock verification, as required under the rules, has been done in any of the above Stores; if so, the details thereof, yearwise during the last three years; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Central Assistance to Himachal Pradesh to Promote Tourism

2315. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:
SHRI BHIM RAJ:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an assistance to the tune of Rs. 19.45 lakhs was given to the Government of Himachal Pradesh during the Sixth Plan period for the construction of a Club House at Manali, provision of boats at Bilaspur, survey of Hot Springs in Vishist area, provision of trekking equipment and also for the construction of a Dharamshala at Nainanadevi; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in completing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Central Department of Tourism has given financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 20.06 lakhs to the Government of Himachal Pradesh during the Sixth Plan period for the construction of a Club House at Manali, provision of boats at Pong Dam and selected lakes survey of Hot Springs in Vishist area and provision of trekking equipment. For these components Central Government has already released its full share. Construction of Dharamshala (Yatrika) at Nainadevi by Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti, a registered society is yet to begin as the State Government is still to finalise the allotment of land.

Quality of vegetarian food served by ITDC Hotels

2316. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to improve the quality of vegetarian food served in ITDC hotels;

(b) whether courses relating to vegetarian menus will be introduced in the catering institutes run by Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) ITDC endeavours to serve quality vegetarian cuisine at all its food outlets. The improvement of cuisine is a continuous process which is ensured through strict control on the quality of ingredients used, maintenance of hygienic conditions, imparting of training to Chefs from time to time, etc.

(b) and (c) The syllabus presently being followed for the Cookery Course in the Institutes of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, and Food craft Institutes includes training in the preparation of vegetarian menus.

2317. [*Transferred to the 18th December, 1985*].

Foreign Exchange earned by Tourism Industry

2318. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the year 1984-85 by the tourist industry both in public and private sectors; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent by the tourist industry during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The latest estimate of Foreign Exchange earnings from tourism, released by the Reserve Bank of India, relates to the year 1982-83 and is Rs. 1130.6 crores.

(b) The tourist industry involves multifarious activities and covers wide ranging sectors like hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, tour operators, transport operators, both in the public and the private sectors. The Department of Tourism releases foreign exchange only to the approved sectors of tourist industry under the Incentive Quota.

The foreign exchange utilised during 1984-85 by the approved sectors of tourist industry (including foreign exchange utilised by ITDC out of General Quota) was Rs. 1006.83 lakhs.

As regards foreign exchange utilised out of General Quota by other sectors of tourist industry through Reserve Bank of India and the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, the figures are not maintained separately for tourist industry.

Hotel Samrat, New Delhi

2319. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) when was Hotel Samrat completed and inaugurated in New Delhi;

(b) what amount was spent on its construction and also on furnishing, decorating and purchasing equipments, etc., separately;

(c) how many bed rooms are there in this hotel;

(d) what has been the average occupancy rate since its inauguration; and

(e) how many bed rooms have been rented out to the Gas Authority of India and other public and private undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Hotel Samrat was inaugurated on 14th November, 1982 and became fully operational in November, 1983.